

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 69-74, 78 are pending and presented for examination. Claims 69 and 72 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants' Representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 29th, 2008. Applicants agreed to amend the claims to provide a functional recitation of the isolation between the first transfer card and the second interface card. Applicants express their gratitude for the generosity of time provided by the Examiner and thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the merits of the Application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 69 and 72 have been amended to further clarify that "electrical connections between the first transfer card and the second interface card being configured for isolating any mutual influence between the first transfer card and the second interface card." Support for the Amendments may be found, for example, in Fig. 5 and related texts on page 8 ll.10-16 and on page 9, ll. 6-7. One of the benefits of this isolation disclosed in the Specification is that when replacing an interface transfer card 30, it is assured that another circuit card 10 will not be influenced.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The amendments to the claims render moot the rejections to the "occur indirectly" language that was previously presented. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 69-73 and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0007946 A1 to Kastenholz, et

al. ("Kastenholz"). Claim 74 is rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Kastenholz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,973 to Gorshe et al. ("Gorshe").

Examiner asserts that Kastenholz directs Applicant to the rejection of claims 69 and 72 and Figures 2,3 and 5 of Kastenholz, which correlate the first circuit card to **line card module 102**, the first transfer card to **local line card 202**, the second circuit card to **expanded interconnect board 138**, the second transfer card to **ASIC 410a/b**, the first switched network card to **local interconnect module 118**, the first interface card to **interconnect board 218**, and the second interface card to **interconnect board 220**, the first data communication link to **communication lines 217**.

Claims 69 and 72 have been amended to clarify that Claims 69 and 72 have been amended to further clarify that **"electrical connections between the first transfer card and the second interface card being configured for isolating any mutual influence between the first transfer card and the second interface card"**, as recited in the claims. Support for the Amendments may be found, for example, in Fig. 5 and related texts on page 8, ll.10-16 and on page 9, ll. 6-7. Fig. 5 shows that each circuit card 10 corresponds to one interface transfer card 30 that connects with one interface card 40 through a data communication link 50, and the interface card 40 connects with switched network cards 20.

One of the benefits disclosed in the specification is that when replacing an interface transfer card 30, it is assured that another circuit card 10 will not be influenced. Support may be found, for example, in the specification (page 8, ll. 12-14), that "each circuit card 10 corresponds with one interface card 40 of a switched network, that is the interface cards 40 of a switched network and interface transfer cards 30 correspond **one to one**". At the end of the Amendment (page 10), a modified Fig. 5 of the specification is included. Note that a dashline from the first transfer card 30 to the second interface card 40 would be a direct connection between the first transfer card and the second interface card. However, the absence of the dashline indicates that there is no **direct connection** between the first transfer card 30 and the second interface card 40 and thus provides the isolation now recited in the claims.

In contrast, such a connection as shown by the dashline in Fig. 5 exists in Kastenholz. The evidence of the connection is shown in Fig. 3 of Kastenholz that is attached on

page 11 of the Amendment. Note that there are two solid lines between the first transfer card 202 and the second interface card 220, as highlighted. Fig. 3 of Kastenholz and related text in paragraph 50 of Kastenholz describes that "the internal I/O ports 202a-202f connect with up to forty-eight internal communication lines 217 and couple information between the local line card module 102 and the local interconnect module 118". As a result of the direct electrical connections between the first transfer card 202 and the second interface card 220, the first transfer card 202 has influence on the second interface card 220 or vice versa. For example, if the first transfer card 202 fails or is replaced, the second interface card will be affected through the direct communication lines 217 between ports 202c-202-d of the first transfer card 202 and ports 0a, 7a of the second interface card 220. Or, if the second interface card fails or is replaced, the first transfer card is influenced. Therefore, Kastenholz teaches away from what is recited in the amended claims 69 and 72.

For these reasons, each of the independent claims is respectfully believed to be patentable over Kastenholz. Each of the dependent claims is additionally believed to be patentable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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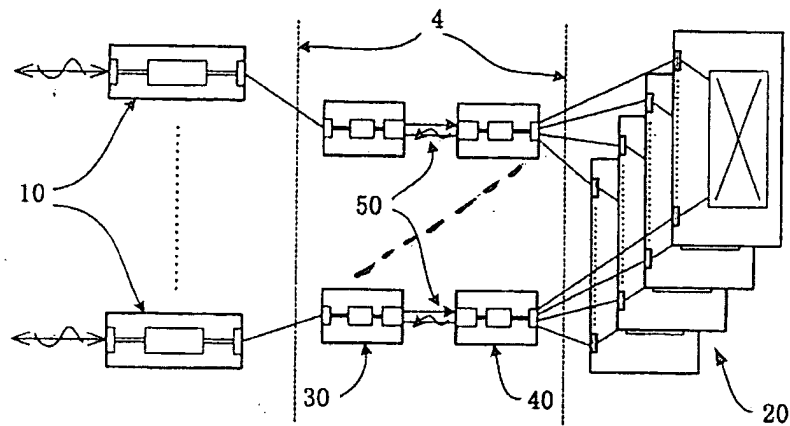


Figure 5

